letters of intent have been issued for 12 units. The details are as follows:

State	Cases approved	No. of letters of intent issued
Uttar Pradesh .	2	1
Punjab . .	4	4
Tamil Nadu .	9	6
Maharashtra .	2	1
TOTAL	17	12

Loans from Sugar Development Fund have been sanctioned to 16 sugar factories for modernisation/ rehabilitation of plant and machinery. The state-wise details are as under:—

State	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
Uttar Pradesh . . .	549.92
Bihar	122.02
Maharashtra . . .	399.00
Andhra Pradesh . . .	40 00
Tamil Nadu . . .	50 00
Punjab	88.00
TOTAL	1248.94

Import of Pulses by NAFED and STC

1844. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 70 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 1988 and state:

(a) the quantity and the varieties of pulses imported by NAFED and STC so far and the rates at which these pulses were imported by these two agencies, separately and how the imported pulses were disposed of;

(b) whether the import of pulses was allowed under Open General Licence;

(c) whether Government are aware of the rates at which the pulses were imported by private parties; and

(d) whether there is any difference in import prices and if so, what are the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The quantity of pulses imported by NAFED so far is of the order of 29995 MT. The varieties of imported pulses by NAFED covered Red whole/split lentils, yellow split lentils, chic peas whole green peas, urad; moong etc. The pulses imported by NAFED ranged approximately around US $ 245—US $ 415 PMT depending upon the variety, quality, source, terms of shipment etc. As far as possible, the imported stocks have been supplied by NAFED to the State Government/Cooperative agencies.

The quantity of pulses imported by the STC was 12,500 MT (till 23.2.1988) including Red lentils, split green lentils, chic peas, Dun peas, urad, moong. The prices of imported pulses ranged approximately around US $ 227— US 367 PMT depending upon the quantum, variety, quality, etc. The pulses were disposed of to State Cooperative Marketing Federations and Private parties.

(b) The import of pulses is under OGL. All eligible importers are required to register their contracts with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).

(c) and (d) It appeared that the import of certain pulses contracted for by private parties was, by and large, in the same price range. But it would be difficult to make any strict comparison of the prices/rates at which the pulses are imported by the different agencies and the private parties, as such prices would depend upon a number of factors including the quantum, variety, quality, terms of payment, etc.

Shortage of funds for NCR plan

1845. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to a news item which appeared in Hindustan Times on the 23rd February, 1988 under the caption Fund shortage may kill NCR plan;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to release adequate funds by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The 7th plan fund requirement for the NCR Development Scheme were projected as Rs. 867 crores (Rs. 467 crores for Central schemes and Rs. 400 crores for State Sector schemes) against which Rs. 65 crores in the State urban development sector (Rs. 35 crores Central share and Rs. 30 crores State share) has been allocated. Due to resource crunch, the Investment Estimates were revised to Rs. 305.58 crores under State and Central Sector schemes for development of 3 towns—one in each State—during the remaining period of 7th plan. The Planning Commission is exploring the possibility of providing additional funds to the NCR Planning Board.

Employment exchanges in the country

1846. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of employment exchanges in the country at present;

(b) what is the total number of unemployed persons who have registered themselves at these employment exchanges; and

(c) what is the total number of persons who got employment during the last three years through these employment exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There are 835 Employment Exchanges including 80 University Employment Information and Guidance Bureaux functioning as on 31st December, 1987.

(b) The number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31st December, 1987 was 302.5 lakhs.

(c) The number of placements effected by the employment exchanges during 1985, 1986 and 1987 was 3.9 lakhs, 3.5 lakhs, 3.3 lakhs respectively.

Import of edible oils for vanaspati Industry

1847. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent in import of edible oils for Vanaspati industry during the last one year; and

(b) whether Government propose to encourage use of non-conventional oils in Vanaspati industry to save foreign exchange?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) During the calendar year, 1987 the